

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 4, and 5C-D.

Figure 4 has been amended to include a reference character "6" beneath the box containing the legend "control and processing unit".

Figure 5C has been amended to remove the reference character "R" and the leader line associated with same.

Figure 5D has been amended to remove the reference characters "78", "79", and "80", and leader lines associated with same.

Attachment: Annotated and Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The specification is amended to add section headings; no new matter is introduced by way of this amendment, and further amended as described below.

Claims 30-57 are canceled, without prejudice, and replaced with new claims 58-85. The new claims are drafted based on claims 30-57 in consideration of U.S. practice and preferences; no new matter is introduced by way of these new claims.

Formal Objections and Rejections

The Official Action objected to the drawings, stating that the reference character "4" has been used to designate both reader module and energy supply module.

The Official Action objected to the drawings, stating that they do not include a reference for a control and processing unit 6 as disclosed in the specification.

The Official Action objected to the drawings, stating that the reference characters 79 and 80 as shown in Figure 5D, R as shown in Figure 5C, and 55 in Figure 6A, are not disclosed in the specification.

In reply, the specification and the drawing figures have been amended as follows:

Figure 4 has been amended to include a reference character "6" beneath the box containing the legend "control and processing unit";

Figure 5C has been amended to remove the reference character "R" and the leader line associated with same;

Figure 5D has been amended to remove the reference characters "79", and "80", and leader lines associated with same;

specification page 9, line 18, has been amended to revise the reference number of the energy supply module from "4" to "5"; and

specification page 12, line 33, has been amended to revise the reference number of the closing part from "56" to "55".

The foregoing amendments do not introduce new matter. Withdrawal of the objections to the drawings is respectfully solicited.

In addition, the specification is amended at page 7, line 14, to address a typographical error, replacing "5C" with "5D", and Figure 5D is further amended to remove the reference character "78" and the leader line associated with same; these amendments to not introduce new matter.

The Official Action objected to claims 32 and 37.

In reply, claims 32 and 37 have been canceled as stated above, and the new claims are believed to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

The Official Action rejected claim 32 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, stating that the claim contains subject matter which is not described in the specification as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventor had possession of the claimed invention. The Official Action states that the writing of information transmitted from the reader module into information storage means was not found in the disclosure.

In reply, claim 32 has been canceled as stated above. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC 112, first paragraph is thereby respectfully requested.

Substantive Rejections

The Official Action rejected claims 30-31, 33-44, and 49 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Lin et al. (US Pub. 2002/0057208; "LIN").

The Official Action rejected claim 32 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over LIN in view of Hughes et al. (US 7,009,526; "HUGHES").

The Official Action rejected claims 45-47 and 50 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over LIN and further in view of Goto et al. (US 5,982,295; "GOTO").

The Official Action rejected claims 48 and 51-53 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over LIN and further in view of Maloney (US 6,707,381; "MALONEY").

The Official Action rejected claims 54-57 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over LIN and further in view of Ogura et al. (US Pub. 2003/0033175; "OGURA").

In reply, it is firstly noted that claims 30-57 are canceled, as stated above, and replaced with new claims 58-85. Claims 58-85 are believed patentable over the references applied by the Official Action for at least the reasons that follow.

LIN discloses an inventory control system for keeping track of inventory objects provided with transmitter antennas (19) and stored in a storage location. The system comprises a generator (20), several storage locations storing inventory objects, each of storage location being provided, on one hand, with several coils (22) emitting the signal generated by the generator (20) inside the storage location and on the other hand with one or several RFID circuit (40) detecting an acknowledgment signal. The system also comprises an apparatus sequentially selecting each storage location, and a system computer connected to the RFID circuit (40) of each storage location.

HUGHES discloses a method for rapidly identifying RFID tags.

GOTO discloses an anti-theft device.

MALONEY discloses an object tracking method and system.

OGURA discloses a vehicle managing device.

As to claim 58, none of the cited references, individually or in combination, disclose a method for the detection and identification of an object as claimed.

In particular, none of the cited references, individually or in combination, teach or suggest two successive electromagnetic couplings between four different antennas (see, for example, Figure 3: A0, A1, A3, A2).

Claim 58 recites a first electromagnetic coupling by electromagnetically coupling the wireless transmission means of the object with a first of a plurality of fixed antennae associated with the receiver module, and a second electromagnetic coupling in the switching step between the fixed antennae, wherein the common secondary fixed antenna is electrically coupled to each of the fixed antennae of each receiver module in succession, and wherein the common secondary fixed antenna is electromagnetically coupled to a primary fixed antenna connected to a reader module.

For example, Figure 3 illustrates a first electromagnetic coupling between the transmission means (A0) of an object (I1) and a first fixed antenna (A1), and a second electromagnetic coupling between a second fixed antenna (A3) and a primary fixed antenna (A2).

None of the references, individually or in combination, teach or suggest this.

Further, the first fixed antenna (A1) and the second fixed antenna (A3) are connected to each other, such that the signal transmitted from the transmission means (A0) to the first fixed antenna (A1) and the signal transmitted from the second fixed antenna (A3) to primary fixed antenna (A2) are the same signal.

In contrast, LIN discloses two successive electromagnetic couplings between only three different antennas. LIN discloses a first coupling between coils 22 and transmitter antenna 19 and a second coupling between transmitter antenna 19 and RFID antennae 42 (see Figure 3). Further, the signal transmitted from coils 22 to transmitter antenna 19 and the signal transmitted from antenna 19 to RFID antennae 42 are not the same.

The Official Action states that LIN discloses an antenna 11 (fig. 1) as the fixed antenna, transmitter antenna 22 (fig. 1) as a secondary fixed antenna, and device 70 (fig. 5) as analogous switching device.

However, claim 58 requires "switching, in an analogue manner, between each of the fixed antennae". With LIN, the device 70 is not between antenna 11 and transmitter antenna 22. Indeed, device 70 is between the output 21 of generator and coils 22 of a given storage compartment (see paragraph [0026]).

Considering the fact that claim 58 recites that "the common secondary fixed antenna is electrically coupled to each of

the fixed antennae", transmitter antenna 22 should be electrically (and not electromagnetically) connected to the fixed antenna 11. But, it is shown clearly on figure 1 that transmitter 22 is not electrically coupled to receiver antenna 11. The coupling between transmitter 22 and receiver antenna 11 is only an electromagnetic coupling.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that LIN fails to disclose the method of claim 58, and none of the other cited documents, i.e. HUGHES, GOTO, MALONEY or OGURA, individually or in combination, disclose such two successive electromagnetic couplings between four different antennas.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that claims depending from claim 58 are patentable at least for depending from a patentable claim.

It is further respectfully submitted that independent claims 65 and 71, and claims depending therefrom, are patentable for at least the reasons set forth above as to claim 58.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully solicited.

From the foregoing, it will be apparent that applicant has fully responded to the July 30, 2008 Official Action and that the claims as presented are patentable. In view of this,

applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims, as presented, and their early passage to issue.

In order to expedite the prosecution of this case, it is requested that the Examiner telephone the attorney for applicant at the number set forth below if the Examiner is of the opinion that further discussion of this case would be helpful.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item(s):

- a terminal disclaimer
- a 37 CFR 1.132 Declaration
- a new or amended Abstract of the Disclosure
- Replacement and Annotated Sheets for Figures 5D, 4, and 5C of the drawings
- a Substitute Specification and a marked-up copy of the originally-filed specification
- a verified English translation of foreign priority document